

concept: lines — Using lines

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Description

Lines occur in many contexts—in borders, axes, the ticks on axes, the outline around symbols, the connecting of points in a plot, and more. *linestyle*, *linepatternstyle*, *linewidthstyle*, and *colorstyle* define the look of the line.

Syntax

The following affects how a line appears:

<i>linestyle</i>	overall style
<i>linepatternstyle</i>	whether solid, dashed, etc.
<i>linewidthstyle</i>	its thickness
<i>colorstyle</i>	its color and opacity

See [G-4] *linestyle*, [G-4] *linepatternstyle*, [G-4] *linewidthstyle*, and [G-4] *colorstyle*.

Remarks and examples

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Remarks are presented under the following headings:

linestyle
linepatternstyle
linewidthstyle
colorstyle

linestyle, *linepatternstyle*, *linewidthstyle*, and *colorstyle* are specified inside options that control how the line is to appear. Regardless of the object, these options usually have the same names:

```
lstyle(linestyle)
lpattern(linepatternstyle)
lwidth(linewidthstyle)
lcolor(colorstyle)
```

Though for a few objects, such as markers, the form of the names is

```
<object>lstyle(linestyle)
<object>lpattern(linepatternstyle)
<object>lwidth(linewidthstyle)
<object>lcolor(linecolorstyle)
```

For instance,

- The options to specify how the lines connecting points in a plot are to appear are specified by the options `lstyle()`, `lpattern()`, `lwidth()`, and `lcolor()`; see [G-3] [connect_options](#).
- The suboptions to specify how the border around a textbox, such as a title, are to appear are named `lstyle()`, `lpattern()`, `lwidth()`, and `lcolor()`; see [G-3] [textbox_options](#).
- The options to specify how the outline around markers is to appear are specified by the options `mlstyle()`, `mlpattern()`, `mlwidth()`, and `mlcolor()`; see [G-3] [marker_options](#).

Wherever these options arise, they always come in a group of four, and the four pieces have the same meaning.

linestyle

linestyle is specified inside the `lstyle()` option or sometimes inside the `<object>lstyle()` option.

linestyle specifies the overall style of the line: its pattern (solid, dashed, etc.), thickness, and color.

You need not specify the `lstyle()` option just because there is something you want to change about the look of the line and, in fact, most of the time you do not. You specify `lstyle()` when another style exists that is exactly what you desire or when another style would allow you to specify fewer changes to obtain what you want.

See [G-4] [linestyle](#) for the list of what may be specified inside the `lstyle()` option.

linepatternstyle

linepatternstyle is specified inside the `lpattern()` or `<object>lpattern()` option.

linepatternstyle specifies whether the line is solid, dashed, etc.

See [G-4] [linepatternstyle](#) for the list of what may be specified inside the `lpattern()` option.

linewidthstyle

linewidthstyle is specified inside the `lwidth()` or `<object>lwidth()` option.

linewidthstyle specifies the thickness of the line.

See [G-4] [linewidthstyle](#) for the list of what may be specified inside the `lwidth()` option.

colorstyle

colorstyle is specified inside the `lcolor()` or `<object>lcolor()` option.

colorstyle specifies the color and opacity of the line.

See [G-4] [colorstyle](#) for the list of what may be specified inside the `lcolor()` option.

Also see

[G-3] *connect_options* — Options for connecting points with lines

[G-4] *colorstyle* — Choices for color

[G-4] *linepatternstyle* — Choices for whether lines are solid, dashed, etc.

[G-4] *linestyle* — Choices for overall look of lines

[G-4] *linewidthstyle* — Choices for thickness of lines